

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 IO-14
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /057 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 290

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 08704

PASS TO AID/W FOR UNFPA AND WPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP, IR
SUBJ: POPULATION GROWTH SURVEY OF IRAN (THREE-YEAR
CONSOLIDATED RESULTS: 1973-76)

REF: TEHRAN 8285

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT SURVEY INDICATES THAT POPULATION IS GROWING AT RATE CLOSE TO 3 PERCENT PER YEAR, THIS BEING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BIRTH RATE OF ABOUT 42 PER THOUSAND AND A DEATH RATE OF ABOUT 12 PER THOUSAND. THE GROWTH IS SLIGHTLY REDUCED BY SMALL NET OUT-MIGRATION OF IRANIANS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES. TAKING ACCOUNT OF THIS OUT-MIGRATION AND OF SAMPLING ERROR, SURVEY RESULTS CONFIRM THAT POPULATION GROWTH IN IRAN DURING THE PERIOD 1973 TO 1976 WAS NOT LESS THAN 2.8 PERCENT PER YEAR, WITH RURAL AREAS REFLECTING BOTH HIGHER BIRTH AND DEATH RATES THAN CITIES. RURAL BIRTH RATE IS ESTIMATED AT 49 PER THOUSAND WITH RURAL DEATH RATE AT 14 PER THOUSAND, RESULTING IN NATURAL RURAL INCREASE OF 3.5 PERCENT PER YEAR; HOWEVER, AS RESULT OF RURAL-TO-URBAN MIGRATION ACTUAL POPULATION INCREASE IN RURAL AREAS IS LESS THAN 2 PERCENT AND CLOSE TO 5 PERCENT IN URBAN AREAS. (SEE REFTTEL). INTERNAL MIGRATION AFFECTS
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ABOUT 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE EACH YEAR RESULTING IN NET RURAL TO URBAN MOVEMENT OF SOME 300,000 PEOPLE. BULK OF MIGRANTS ARE YOUNG PEOPLE IN AGE RANGE 10 TO 34 YEARS WITH MEN OF AGE 15 TO 24 YEARS PARTICULARLY MOBILE. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A RECENT SHARP DECLINE IN FERTILITY AMONG URBAN WOMEN, PARTICULARLY THOSE OVER 30 YEARS OF AGE. FERTILITY DECLINE AMONG RURAL WOMEN

HAS BEEN SLIGHT. INFANT MORTALITY IS ESTIMATED AT 112 PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS IN IRAN WITH MORTALITY OF FEMALE INFANTS 10 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THAT OF MALES. (COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS THREE YEAR POPULATION GROWTH SURVEY OF IRAN IS THE MOST IN-DEPTH STUDY PERFORMED IN IRAN TO DATE AND, BY BUILDING ON THE 1976 PARTIAL CENSUS, REPRESENTS A COMPREHENSIVE AND STATISTICALLY SOUND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS. EMBASSY WILL WELCOME REACTION BY DEPARTMENT TO APPROACH TAKEN BY STATISTICAL CENTER OF IRAN IN DEVELOPING THIS REPORT, AS COMPARED WITH DEMOGRAPHIC REPORTS PUBLISHED BY OTHER DEVELOPING NATIONS. IF THIS REPORT IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY, IN DEPARTMENT VIEW, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE DISCUSSED AS PART OF APPROPRIATE PROGRAM SESSION DURING WORLD POPULATION SOCIETY MEETINGS IN MANILA, 24-28 OCTOBER 1978. SHOULD THIS REPORT BE OF SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO WARRANT DISCUSSION AT WORLD POPULATION SEMINAR IN MANILA PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY SO THAT IRAN'S REPRESENTATIVES MAY PREPARE REMARKS ACCORDINGLY FOR SEMINAR. COMPARISON OF STATISTICAL BASES AND METHODS USED, SAMPLING APPROACHES AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA COULD BE DISCUSSED BY DR. AMINZADEH OF PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION, IF REQUESTED BY WPS, IN ADDITION TO HIS PREPARED REMARKS. FOUR COPIES OF SUBJECT REPORT HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO OES/ENP/PO: ATTENTION DR. LUKE L. LEE. END COMMENT.) END SUMMARY. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. THE SUBJECT REPORT ON THREE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF THE 1973-76 POPULATION GROWTH SURVEY OF IRAN IS JOINT GOI AND UN REPORT. IT IS THE THIRD IN A SERIES CONTAINING RESULTS FROM THE FIRST AND SECOND SURVEY YEARS 1973-74 AND 1974-75. THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES AND UPDATES THE EARLIER DATA AND PRESENTS FINAL RESULTS ADJUSTED TO THE CHANGING URBAN/RURAL COMPOSITION AS EVIDENCED BY PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE 1976 POPULATION CENSUS. (SEE REFTEL). THE FIELD WORK OF THE SURVEY BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1973 AND WAS CARRIED OUT OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD BY MEANS OF SEVEN SUCCESSIVE ROUNDS AT SIX MONTH INTERVALS. A SAMPLE OF 165 AREAS WAS SELECTED SUCH THAT THEIR COMBINED POPULATION OF OVER 100,000, CONSTITUTED REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THE POPULATION OF IRAN, MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY WAS TO MEASURE WITH PRECISION, CRUDE BIRTH RATE, CRUDE DEATH RATE, AND RESULTING RATE OF NATURAL INCREASE.

3. THE REPORT EXPLAINS ANALYTICAL METHODS AND ADJUSTMENT TECHNIQUES USED TO MAKE THESE DATA, ON A STATISTICAL BASIS, AS ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE. IT WAS

NECESSARY TO CALIBRATE THE SAMPLE IN ORDER FOR IT TO CORRESPOND TO THE URBAN/RURAL COMPOSITION OF IRAN'S POPULATION DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD. THIS CALCULATION BECAME POSSIBLE AFTER THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE 1976 POPULATION CENSUS BECAME AVAILABLE. (SEE REFTTEL). MOST ANNUAL DIFFERENCES WERE TOO SMALL TO BE SIGNIFICANT AMONG THE THREE YEARS STUDIED. ALL RESULTS WERE FIRST CALCULATED SEPARATELY FOR THE TWO STRATA, URBAN AND RURAL, AND WERE APPROPRIATELY WEIGHTED TO GIVE NATIONAL RESULTS.

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TO CALCULATE ACTUAL FIGURES IT WAS FIRST NECESSARY TO KNOW THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION DURING THE SURVEY. BASED ON THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE 1976 POPULATION CENSUS, THE FOLLOWING MEAN POPULATIONS WERE OBTAINED FOR THE THREE SURVEY YEARS: 1973-74 --31,436,000; 1974-75 --32,282,000; AND, 1975-76 --33,152,000.

4. COMBINED THREE YEAR DATA ARE PREFERABLE TO SINGLE YEAR DATA FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, THE LARGE BODY OF OBSERVED DATA REDUCE THE EFFECT OF CHANGE WHICH IS ALWAYS PRESENT IN A SAMPLE STUDY, PARTICULARLY AS BREAK-DOWN OF DETAIL BECOMES BETTER DEFINED. SECONDLY, TRUE ANNUAL FLUCTUATIONS DO TAKE PLACE IN THE UNDERLYING DEMOGRAPHIC PHENOMENA AND THE DATE THEREFORE FOR A SINGLE YEAR BECOME ATYPICAL. THE RESULTS TAKEN SEPARATELY FOR EACH OF THE THREE SURVEY YEARS REVEALED SMALL ANNUAL DIFFERENCES IN RATES AND RATIOS. WITH SOME MINOR EXCEPTIONS, THE GENERAL CONFORMITY AS WELL AS SATISFACTORY INTERNAL CONSISTENCY ADDED CONFIDENCE TO THE RELIABILITY OF THESE RESULTS.

5. THE MAIN RESULTS OF THE SURVEY FOLLOW IN

TABULAR FORM: 1973-76 1973-74 1974-75 1975-76

CRUDE BIRTH- TOTAL 41.8 42.3 41.8 41.3

RATE URBAN 32.5 31.8 33.1 32.5

RURAL 48.8 50.1 48.4 48.2

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CRUDE DEATH- TOTAL 11.5 12.3 11.2 11.0

RATE URBAN 8.3 9.2 8.4 8.2

RURAL 13.9 15.4 13.4 13.1

NATURAL TOTAL 30.3 30.0 30.6 30.3

INCREASE URBAN 24.2 23.6 24.7 24.3

RURAL 34.9 34.7 35.0 35.1

NET INTERNAL

MIGRATION- TOTAL -- -- -- --

URBAN #24.5 #22.7 #21.6 #29.3

(# DENOTES A PLUS)

RURAL -15.9 -14.5 13.7 -19.4

NET INTERNATIONAL

MIGRATION-- TOTAL -0.5 -0.5 -0.7 -0.3

URBAN -0.9 -0.8 -1.4 -0.5

RURAL -0.2 -0.2 -0.1 -0.4

POPULATION/GROWTH

TOTAL 29.8 29.5 29.9 30.0

URBAN 47.8 45.5 44.9 53.1

RURAL 18.8 20.0 21.2 15.3

INFANT MORTALITY

TOTAL 112

URBAN 76

RURAL 130

5. AS CAN BE SEEN UNDER "POPULATION GROWTH" DATA IN

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THE TABLE, THE TOTAL GROWTH FOR THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD
AND INDIVIDUAL YEARS HOVERS AROUND THREE PERCENT IN TOTAL
WITH URBAN GROWTH EXCEEDING FOUR PERCENT AND APPEARING
TO BE ON THE INCREASE, WHILE RURAL GROWTH IS MAINTAINED
BELOW TWO PERCENT AND APPEARS TO BE ON THE DECLINE

(DUE PRIMARILY TO INTERNAL MIGRATION).

CONTRASTED WITH OVERALL URBAN INCREASE OF NEARLY 5 PERCENT, THE NATURAL URBAN INCREASE IS IN RANGE OF 1.2 TO 3.8 PERCENT; OVERALL RURAL INCREASE OF LESS THAN 2 PERCENT CAN BE CONTRASTED TO NATURAL RURAL INCREASE IN RANGE OF 2.5 TO 4.5 PERCENT. THIS COMPARISON SHOWS SIGNIFICANCE OF INTERNAL MIGRATION TO URBAN AREAS ON A NATIONWIDE BASIS.

6. AGE STRUCTURE OF THE IRANIAN POPULATION IS UNDERGOING GRADUAL CHANGE, TENDING TO INCREASE BIRTH RATE AND TO LOWER DEATH RATE. EVEN IF NO CHANGES OCCUR IN UNDERLYING FERTILITY AND MORTALITY CONDITIONS, MAGNITUDE OF CHANGES CAN BE MEASURED BY APPLYING CONSTANT FERTILITY AND MORTALITY RATES TO THE CHANGING AGE DISTRIBUTION. THE RESULTS SUGGEST THAT THE TRUE BIRTH RATE OF IRAN HAS A TENDENCY TO INCREASE BY 0.2 OR 0.3 PER THOUSAND POPULATION PER YEAR IF THERE IS NO CHANGE IN FERTILITY. A SIMILAR CALCULATION ON MORTALITY SHOWS AN ANNUAL DECLINE OF ABOUT 0.1 PER ONE THOUSAND POPULATION IN THE CRUDE DEATH RATE EVEN WITHOUT ANY REAL DECLINE IN MORTALITY.

7. RURAL AREAS REFLECT HIGH FERTILITY POPULATION COMPARABLE TO NATIONS WITH HIGHEST KNOWN FERTILITY LEVELS. ON THE OTHER HAND, URBAN POPULATION OF IRAN HAS ENTERED A STAGE OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION IN WHICH FERTILITY LEVEL IS DECLINING WELL BELOW THAT OF MAXIMUM CHILD BEARING POTENTIAL.

RATIOS BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL INFANT MORTALITY
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SHOW THE RURAL RATE TO BE 130 AS COMPARED TO THE URBAN RATE OF 75.6 PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS, WITH FEMALES AT 117 AND MALES AT 107 PER THOUSAND. CRUDE DEATH RATES SHOW CONSISTENT DECLINE IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION GROUPS.

9. THE THREE YEAR ANALYTICAL CENSUS WILL BE REPEATED WITH THE FIRST YEAR OF THE THREE YEAR SEQUENCE COMMENCING IN 1980. WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A 1980-81 AND-82 INDIVIDUAL POPULATION SURVEY WITH A SUMMARY SURVEY IN 1983 FOR THE THREE YEAR PERIOD.
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